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PRESS RELEASE

Comté Scholarship Winner Announced!

New York, NY (January 17, 2018) -- The Comté Cheese Association is delighted to announce that Timothy Johnstone has won the sixth annual Comté Scholarship for American Cheese Society *Certified Cheese Professionals*[™] (ACS CCPs[™])! He has won an all-expenses-paid trip to the Comté region to explore the cheese and its culture first-hand.

Mr. Johnstone, a Cheesemonger at Capriole, Inc. in Greenville, IN stated, "I'm so excited and thrilled to win this incredible trip. Experiencing the making of Comté cheese and seeing all the region has to offer, is a truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for a cheese professional!"

Nicholas Crosetti of Whole Foods Market, Walnut Creek, California was named the runner-up. He will receive a special Comté care package.

The essays were judged anonymously (without access to the applicants' names or workplaces) on the basis of knowledge and creativity by a panel of three renowned cheese experts: **Dick Roe**, *Board President of the American Cheese Society and VP of Administration for Gourmet Foods International*; **Cathy Strange**, *Global Cheese Buyer of Whole Foods Market*; and **Max McCalman**, *Maître Fromager, Author, Speaker, Consultant and Educator*.

This year's essay question explored the main skills and responsibilities a cheesemonger must demonstrate when dealing — from buying to selling — with traditional cheeses; using Comté as an example. Johnstone's winning essay can be read here: <http://media.comte-usa.com/essays/17ComteScholarshipforCCPs.pdf>

The Certified Cheese Professional[™] (CCP) Exam was established by the American Cheese Society in 2012 to encourage high standards of comprehensive cheese knowledge and service for professionals in all areas of the cheese world. The exam is based on the knowledge and skills required to successfully perform cheese-related tasks in jobs across the board.

Made exclusively in the Jura Mountain region of France, Comté is an artisanal cheese with AOC (Controlled Appellation of Origin) and PDO (European Protected Denomination of Origin) designations. Each wheel of Comté reflects a unique terroir, a season of production, and centuries of cheesemaking and affinage traditions.

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The Comté Cheese Association – Comité Interprofessionnel du Comté – was set up by decree on 11th June 1963. It represents all those who are involved in the production of Comté—dairy farmers, cheese-makers, affineurs—and carries out activities in all fields of interest to the trade, including research and technical issues, economics, information and communications, marketing, law and promotion of the Comté appellation, defense of local traditions and protection of the environment.

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